

# COMMISSIONED

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Secrets to a Successful Marriage

## **WALK IN SELFLESS LOVE**

(PT.4):

**SIX ACTIONS OF LOVE**

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## Context

- The church in Corinth was full of **division** and **disorder**.
  - One area this was evident is in the practice of spiritual gifts. Paul address this in chapters 12-14.
- The solution given in chapters 12-14 include the need to :
  - Recognize the need for unity in the body
  - Recognize the importance of every member of the church
  - Recognize the proper use of spiritual gifts

**1 Corinthians 12:31: . . .and I show you a still more excellent way.**

**Love**

## 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous;  
love does not brag and is not arrogant,  
<sup>5</sup>does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own,  
is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,  
<sup>6</sup>does not rejoice in unrighteousness,  
but rejoices with the truth;  
<sup>7</sup>bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.

# 15 Descriptions of Love

## Love is:

- 1) patient
- 2) kind

## Love is not:

- 3) jealous
- 4) boastful
- 5) arrogant
- 6) unbecoming
- 7) selfish
- 8) easily provoked
- 9) resentful

## Love both:

- 10) refuses to rejoice over unrighteousness
- 11) rejoices with the truth

## Love's persistence:

- 12) bears all things
- 13) believes all things
- 14) hopes all things
- 15) endures all things

## Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness

**Rejoice:** “to be glad in, to find delight in, find joy in”

**Unrighteousness:** “wrongdoing, wickedness, injustice”

**Romans 1:28–32:** <sup>28</sup>And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, <sup>29</sup>being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, <sup>30</sup>slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup>without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup>and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, **they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.**

## Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness

**John 3:19–20:** <sup>19</sup>“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>“For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

- People rejoice in evil because then their own deeds are not as shameful. Feelings of guilt can be alleviated when your own sinful acts are viewed by society as normal.

## Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness

- ✓ When someone that has been critical of you at your workplace is caught doing something unethical, does part of you take pleasure in that?
- ✓ Do you enjoy reading of scandalous sins in media?
- ✓ Do you enjoy a sense of superiority over another because you have not failed as he or she has?

## Why is rejoicing in unrighteousness contrary to love?

1. Sin's consequences on the one who sins.

Proverbs 13:15

Good understanding produces favor,  
But the way of the treacherous is hard.

2. Sin's consequences on others.
3. Sin's consequences on our Savior.



# Love rejoices with the truth

**Rejoice:** “to take pleasure in, to joyfully celebrate”

**Why is unrighteousness contrasted with truth?**

- **2 Thessalonians 2:11–12:** For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged **who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.**
- **Romans 2:5–8:** But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and **do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness,** wrath and indignation.

# Love rejoices with the truth

**Truth:** God's revealed truth – the gospel and all its implications

Jonah failed to love in this way (Jonah 3:10-4:3).

- Are you gladdened in any way by the failure of those who have hurt you? Or do you long to see them walk in the joy of the Lord?
- Do you speak or listen to gossip?

# Love's Persistence

## 1 Corinthians 13:7:

bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.

- **All things:** “all, every, or continually”
  - Love is without limits

# Love bears all things

**Bear:** “to cover, to put up with, or to endure”

Love covers or puts up with difficulties or the failures of others

- **1 Corinthians 9:12:** If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but **we endure all things so** that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

Love endures others mistreatment – it overlooks offenses.

- **Proverbs 10:12:** Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.
- **Proverbs 17:9:** He who conceals a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.
- **1 Peter 4:8:** Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

# Love bears all things

There are times when sin must be rebuked.

- **Luke 17:3:** “Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.”
- **Titus 1:9:** [the overseer must be] holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to **refute those who contradict.**

**How do we know when to bear with other people and when to confront?**

- “Am I confronting this sin, rebuking this brother or even bringing this up **for my own good** or **for the good of my brother?**”
- **Proverbs 27:5–6:** Better is open rebuke Than love that is concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

# Love believes all things

**Believe:** “to believe, or to trust”

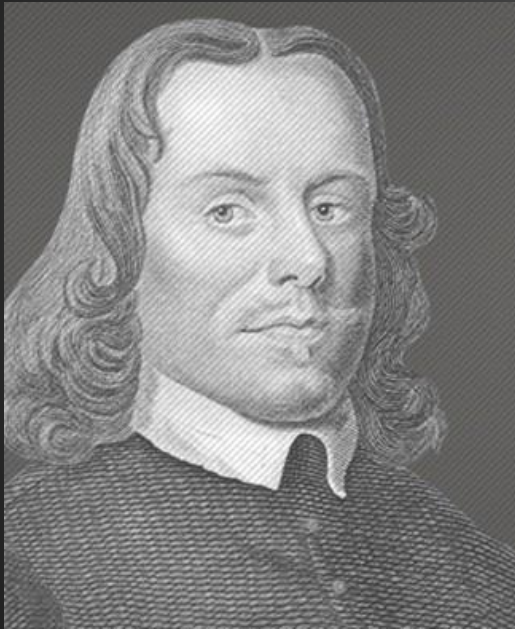
Does this mean that love requires us to be gullible or naïve?

- **Proverbs 14:15:** The naive believes everything, But the sensible man considers his steps.
- **Proverbs 22:3:** The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, But the naive go on, and are punished for it.
- **Ephesians 4:14:** . . . we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
- **1 Thessalonians 5:21:** But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;

# Love believes all things

Love believes the best about others' motives. Love is not cynical, and it is not constantly doubting others and suspicious of their motives.

- **This is difficult because you know your own sinful motives!**



“The best prayer I ever prayed—had enough sin to damn the whole world!”

– John Bunyan

- **Know and repent of your own sinful motives and desires, love demands that you believe the best about what is in the heart of others.**



# Love hopes all things

**Hope:** “expectation or trust”

Love does not have a false hope – but a real hope.

➤ **Real hope is based on what God can do in another's life.**

- **1 Corinthians 1:4–9:** I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



# Love hopes all things

**Philippians 1:6:** For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

- Love hopes that a child who has walked away from the faith (any maybe even the family) can one day repent because God can do that change in his or her heart.
- Love hopes that a husband who had a long history of sinful and selfish behavior can be changed by God into a faithful and godly man.
- Love hopes that a marriage that has been continually rocky can be redeemed by God to be one that is healthy and joyful.

# Love endures all things

**Endure:** “to hold out or to persevere”

In any circumstance, whether is pain, suffering, or loss, love holds fast to those it loves. It endures all things at all costs. Love never stops loving.

- **2 Timothy 2:8–10:** Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.
- **2 Corinthians 6:4–5:** . . . in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger. . .

## Love endures all things



“I promised ‘in sickness and in health, til death do us part,’ and I’m a man of my word.”

– Robertson McQuilken

# Living it out

- **Without Christ**, love like this is not possible.
- **With Christ**, you can love until the end. He is our Savior, our strength, and our example.
- **Hebrews 12:2–3:** . . . fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.